(a) whether a new division in the name of "Unfiltered Water Supply Division' has been created in CPWD during 1990-91; and

(b) if so, the action contemplated by the Government to improve the working of the Divison?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Unfiltered Water Supply Division in the CP WD has been created to attend to renovation and improvement of the existing unfiltered water supply and is expected to substantially improve the distribution of the unfiltered water. The level of maintenance of the existing distribution system of the unfultered water is reported to have improved since the creation of this Division.

Review of Fertilizer Subsidy

6592. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to restart the erstwhile subsidy on fertilizers, taking into account the difficulties experienced by the farmers in this regard;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be restarted and to what extent; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c). Subsidy is being paid for all fertilizers except the low analysis fertilizers like ammonium chloride, ammonium sulphate, calcium ammonium nitrate and sulphate of potash. There is no proposal to bring back the above named four fertilizers within the fold of the fertilizer retention price-cum-subsidy scheme.

Drinking Water to Workers

6593. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken so far by the Government to supply drinking water to the workers and employees working in Chitra Colliery, Dumka (Bihar) and the year-wise details of expenditure incurred thereon;

(b) whether the arrangements for drinking water supply in the said mine are not adequate as a result of which the workers/ employees are not getting the proper and regular supply of drinking water; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to evolve a prompt and proper solution to this problem and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) In Chitra Colliery there is a slow sand filtration plant of one lakh galion per day capacity for supplying drinking water to the employees of Chitra Colliery The scheme was implemented at a cost of Rs. 4.57 lakhs in the year 1984. In 1987 a further sum of Rs. 3.59 lakhs was spent for extending the facilities with the construction of an additional overhead tank,, In addition five hand-pumps tube-wells have been installed in 1990-91. Water drawn from these tube wells is supplied through water carriers on regular basis.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Export of Coal

6594. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has decided to take the charge of the export of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a delegation lead by Chief General Manager (Marketing) had gone to Bangladesh recently in this connection;

(d) if so, the name of the other members of the delegation; and

(e) the amount spent on the visit thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Export of coal/coke has been decanalised, Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is free to export coal based on commercial considerations.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. CIL has informed that a delegation led by Shri S.K. Sen, Chief General Manager (Marketing) CIL alongwith two members each from coal companies and MMTC, visited Bangladesh to explore the possibility of export of coal. Names of the other members of the said delegation are as under:-

COAL INDIA LTD.

1. Shri V.K. Singh, Chief General Management (Sales & Marketing), Eastern Coalfieds Ltd, Calcutta.

2. Shri S.V. Rao, General Manager (Finance), Coal India Ltd., Calcutta.

MINERALS & METALS TRADING CORPORATION

1. Shri B. N. Ghosh, Dy. General Manager, (F &A), MMTC, Calcutta.

2. Shri V. D. Seth, Sr. Manager, MMTC, New Delhi.

(e) According to information furnished by CIL, the amount spent on the visit by the coal companies was about Rs. 1.48 lakhs.

Meeting of Civil Supplies Ministers on Price Rise

6595. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government held a meeting of the Ministers of Civil Supplies of the States to discuss the problem of continuous rising prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet this situation; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). Issues relating to the price situation and the working of the Public Distribution System were discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers held on October, 1991 which was also attended by the Ministers of Food and Civil Supplies of the States. The State Governments/UT Administrations were requested by the Finance Minister to contain Budgetary deficits by cutting down Government expenditure on the non-plan side, Measures contemplated by the Central Government were also outlined by the Finance Minister in this meeting. The Revamped Public Distribution System was also discussed in this meeting and the State Governments were asked by the Prime Minster to involve local people in the supervision of the Public Distribution System. State Governments agreed to step up action against hoarders and blackmarketeers under the Essential Commodities Act and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintinance of Essential Supplies Act.